

Cohasset Mariner

The Mariner (and supplements) is a paid circulation newspaper published every Thursday at 541 Plain St., Marshfield, Mass. 02050 for and about the residents of Cohasset. Telephone 545-3950 or 837-3500. Mailing address: Box 71, Cohasset, Mass. 02025. Second class postage paid at Marshfield, Mass. 02050.

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As The Mariner goes to press Tuesday night, all news and advertising copy must be received by Monday at 5 p.m. Readers are invited to submit personal items, accounts of social functions, meetings, wedding and engagements. Photographs (black and white glossy) are also welcome.

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Editorial

The Surrey Drive Horror

John and Winnie Kuhn of 25 Surrey Drive questioned Selectmen two weeks ago on why they were unable to obtain a hearing with the Board of Health.

After a long and expensive court battle to restrain the installation of a septic system on lot 24, owned by William Pinkerson, the Kuhns decided they wanted another hearing, to have the variance allowed for the lot revoked. A portion of Lot 24, the portion that would be used as a leeching field, extends nine feet from the Kuhns front door stoop, they have discovered.

Now, with the elucidation of a few facts and with copies of correspondence—all of which were public documents—we, too, wonder why the Kuhns weren't granted a Board of Health hearing.

It is all very neat and legitimate to receive an opinion from Town Counsel declaring that there was merit to the objections against the hearing levelled by Pinkerson's attorney, Larry Kenna of Choate, Hall and Stewart. That July 30 letter put a tidy cap on the issue. Selectmen felt they should abide by the opinion, unless otherwise advised by Town Counsel, and until the court ruling is handed down sometime in September.

The Kuhns, however, were asked to accept this opinion, after being led to believe that they were to receive a hearing with the Board of Health for weeks before the July 30 letter from J. Blake Thaxter.

After court testimony was completed, the Kuhns requested that another hearing be held. A June 19 letter from Health Agent Kevin O'Brien informed the Kuhns that a hearing would be held before the Board of Health. "The purpose of this hearing is to consider a request for the invalidation of the Disposal Works Construction Permit for Lot 24 Surrey Drive which the Board issued on February 16, 1979," the letter read.

Then another letter was sent the Kuhns July 5, which informed them that the hearing was re-scheduled for July 23. "Due to a request from Attorney Larry Kenna (Pinkerson's attorney)." Subsequently, on July 18, O'Brien sent out yet a third letter informing the Kuhns that "due to an injury to one of the interested parties" the Board of Health hearing had to be postponed until August 13. It was in anticipation of that hearing when the Kuhn's attorney, William Golden, received a copy of Thaxter's letter and apprised them of the cancellation.

The Kuhn's, to this day, never found out what objections to the hearing were, reasons which they should have known since they had been granted the hearing on more than one occasion. Meanwhile, during the last month, while still wondering why, they suffered a total breakdown of their septic system.

Plumbers, electricians, septic system installers, reporters and photographers all flocked to their home—now affectionately termed by the Kuhns as "The Surrey Drive Horror"—to learn what was going on.

Most recent news from the Kuhns has it that a compromise has been established. If they remember to go down to their basement several times a day to switch on a manual pump, they may be rewarded with not having a total back up, while awaiting two new pump units for the system. The price tag for these repairs? Approximately \$1500.

It is no wonder that neighbors wouldn't allow their children to play at the Kuhn's while the septic pit outside the garage lay exposed. It had to remain open it seems so that they could see how high the water was rising. (Winnie Kuhn said this week that the "septic stink" which ha pervaded their home off and on ever since they bought the house three years ago, got too tough to take. A collaborative effort from a bunch of kids got the heavy cover back on the pit.)

It is small wonder that John Kuhn, who recently underwent orthopedic surgery, dared to return to a household where it was never known when the sewage would back up into the

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A Voice For Apartments

To the Editor:

Places where more people can live economically in Cohasset are practically nonexistent. It is distressing to learn that some single people have given up the struggle of maintaining their homes and have left Cohasset to live in the townhouses in the Beal Cove development in Hingham located in the former ammunition depot.

The group of approximately 30 apartment buildings can be inspected by entering from Beal Street in the rear of the Red Coach Grill restaurant, opposite the former Hingham Shipyard. The builders were Spaulding and Slye Corporation, 15 New England Executive Park, Burlington, Mass. The rents range from \$355 to \$490 per month for one and two bedrooms, and now all are rented. There are about 39 buildings and it appears there are at least six apartments to a building, sometimes more, making about 180 to 200 units of one, or two bedrooms.

Why doesn't some enterprising Cohasset realtor build some apartment buildings like those at Beal Cove? There are some excellent sites on Chief Justice Cushing Highway between Beechwood Street and Pond Street. When the wastewater disposal system is put in there will have to be a sewer pipe installed on Rte. 3A between Beechwood and Pond Streets. That pipe will pick up the wastewater from the Veteran's district and prevent it from discharging into Peppermint Brook and Lily Pond.

That area on Chief Justice Cushing Highway will be the best site in town for some one, and two bedroom apartment buildings. They will be well

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removed from the shore area of the town where the country estates have high valuations and where people do not want to see apartment-type buildings. The cost must be as low as possible to permit the lowest possible rents. Even if the architecture has no features to make it look attractive, the rents will probably be high.

Unfortunately Cohasset is a rather expensive town to live in because it is attractive and the population consists largely of affluent people with comfortable incomes. People with small incomes have to move to towns like Pembroke. We would not want Cohasset to grow rapidly and get out of balance, but it would be advantageous for Cohasset to continue to grow gradually as it has in the past. More nice people coming into town means more sociability, better retail stores and more amenities. At any rate whether we like it, or not, Cohasset is going to grow gradually due to the natural pressure of population.

Our school buildings will be adequate and our water supply will be more than ample. With smoke detectors installed in every house, the cost of fire protection can be cut in half. Police protection is unavoidably expensive. Facilities for recreation are being improved by the new head of the Recreation Department, John Worley. Cohasset Harbor needs to be enlarged to provide more boat moorings.

The town line between Co-

hasset and Scituate should be changed so that the entire harbor will be in Cohasset. The important project now is the proposed wastewater disposal system and treatment plant. Cohasset's streets are well maintained by new pavings but the town has not built any new streets for years.

The town's system of main streets needs to be studied and some new arterial streets planned. Such new streets will follow contour lines instead of going up the hill and going down the hill as do our present main streets. Some problems of drainage require special engineering studies.

The above may explain to the Planning Board what the writer has in mind in connection with town planning. There would be no advantage in having a comprehensive town planning report like the 1961 Benjamin Report, which would be a big mouthful to swallow at one time. It will be better to give attention individually to numerous aspects of town growth and development. We need to do more thinking about the town, in addition to thinking about house lots and the subdivision of large estates into house lots.

It is unfortunate and very sad that young people who belong in Cohasset and who now work at medium income jobs cannot afford to live in their own town. Cohasset needs those young people to balance the population. It also needs to retain the widows who cannot afford the high cost of maintaining their homes.

Gilbert Tower
N. Main Street

Around Town Hall

POND STUDY

The lake management firm chosen to conduct the Straits Pond Coastal Zone Management (CZM) grant study has notified Cohasset and Hull that the scope of the work will cost an additional \$1,000.

According to Hull Health Agent Chris McCabe, CZM is requiring additional water

samples which will bring Cohasset and Hull's share of the \$11,000 project to \$1,500 each. Both towns contributed \$1,000 to the study and CZM paid the matching \$8,000.

The agreement must be returned to CZM by Aug. 31, McCabe reported.

NEW NEGOTIATOR

The Personnel Committee

has recently asked whether Attorney Charles Humphreys will serve as the town's legal representative for police and fire contract negotiations. The answer to that question is no, as Humphreys has left the office of Thaxter, Beckwith & Henderson. Thaxter said his office will assume that responsibility.

New Fall Guide tells you all about Part-Time Education at Northeastern University



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